political life to the boards of Public Sector Corporations?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government's policy is to appoint such people on the Board of Public Sector concerns as are suitable. People in political life, if suitable, may also be appointed.

1916. (*Transferred to the 2nd December*, 1988)

Advertisement for deposits from public by the Indian Express Newspapers Private Limited

1917. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that advertisement seeking deposits from the public by the Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) Private Limited, appeared in the Indian Express edition of Madras on 7th September, 1987;

(b) whether it is a fact that the advertisement did not reveal the fact that Nariman Point Building Service and Trading Private Limited (NPBST) and ACE Investment Private Limited are also closely related companies which are in fact the real estate owning companies;

(c) whehter Government have noticed this lapse which was done deliberately; and

(d) what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) An advertisement was published in the Madras Edition of Indian Express, dated the 8th September, 1987.

(b) and (c) Under the Companies (Acceptance of Deposits) Rules, 1975, information regarding closely related companies is not required to be stated in the advertisement.

(d) Does not arise.

Inspection of Indian Express Group of Companies

1918. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report that in the course of an inspection of Indian Express Group of Companies, carried out by Company Law Board, it was found that "ACE PVT LTD.", one of the group companies, was suddenly delinked from the chain with a view to enable Ramnath Goenka to acquire controlling interest in ACE PVT LTD. which owns all the real estate assets at Bombay, Madras, Bangalore and Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the details of this transaction; and

(c) what action has been taken or proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The inspection report under section 209A of the Companies Act, 1956 pertaining to Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) Pvt. Ltd., disclosed that ACE Investments Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) Pvt. Ltd., controlled Express Newspapers Ltd. which was owning real estate properties at Bombay, Madras, Bangalore & New Delhi. Later on M/s. Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) Pvt. Ltd., transferred its entire holdings in ACE Investments Ltd. to Shri R. N. Goenka and his relatives.

(c) Company Law Board ordered an investigation under Section 237(b) of the Companies Act on 13-11-1987 to investigate into the affairs of the eight companies belonging to Goenka Group including ACE

Investments Ltd. One of the items to be investigated relates to alienation of valuable properties belonging to Express Newspapers Ltd. from M/s. Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) Pvt. Ltd. with a view to depriving the creditors of the latter company, and its subsidiaries of their securities. The Bombay High Court stayed the order of investigation, against which an appeal has been filed.

Working out of amount against M/s. Pfizer

1919. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 3657 given in the Rajya Sabha on 29th August, 1988 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that special team worked out the gross amount against Pfizer in respect of Oxy-tetracycline, PAS and its salts;

(b) if so, what was the gross amount worked out against each drug;

(c) what are the details based on which calculations of gross amount were arrived at in each case;

(d) whether it is a fact that the special team allowed set offs;

(e) if so, what was the magnitude of each; and

(f) whether it is a fact that set offs allowed were given by the office of Development Commissioner (Drugs)?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (f) The required details to the extent information is available would be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

Calculation of amount due to Benzethene

1920. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 4602 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 5th September, 1988 and state:

(a) what is the quantity of bulk drug Benzathene involved on which the amount due from the company has been calculated;

(b) what is the production of formulations involved on which the amount due against John Wyeth has been calculated;

(c) at what rate the amount has been calculated and whether it is a fact that amount has been calculated from this company without properly disposing of the representation; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the compnay challenged the amount assessed and disputed?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (d) The required details to the extent information is available, would be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

Aspects for the development of Salt Industry

1921. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Salt Inquiry Commission constituted by Government in 1978 examined various aspects of development of salt industry and submitted its report; if so, what were its major recommendations;

(b) whether the recommendations were examined by Government and what was the view taken on each recommendation;

(c) whether the Committee recommended to delegate powers to State Governments in the matter of licensing salt works and execution of developmental and labour welfare works to be funded from the salt cess; if so, what was the difficulty in accepting the Committee's recommendation; and

(d) what are the reasons for which administration of salt cess has been retained by the Central Government and what was the amount spent for labour welfare works in salt producing States in the last three years against their production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DE-